LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Between the Right Reverend Jeremiah Williamson and

The Reverend_____, Deacon

Whom the Bishop has assigned as

Deacon at_____ Episcopal Church

In_____, New York

Effective_____

PREFACE: The ministry of the deacon has its origins in the life and ministry of Christ and in the history of the early Church. It is given shape, meaning and purpose in the words of the Baptismal Covenant. This ministry is made concrete and specific by the words of the ordination service for deacons:

"God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known by your word and example, to those among whom you live and work and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself." (BCP p. 543)

Per Bishop Jeremiah's pastoral letter sent on February 7, 2025 to our diocesan deacons, "Deacons are under the appointment of the Bishop. The reason the Bishop appoints deacons is so we are able to best address and respond to the changing needs of the diocese." www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/deaconletter0125

Diaconal ministry is understood as one which takes on characteristics of both servanthood and leadership. While the Deacon is bound by vow directly to the Bishop, the Deacon also carries out ministries in close collaboration with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge *(hereafter referred to as "Rector")* and congregation, as well as outside the formal boundaries of the Church.